

◆早稲洪高3英語◆ 1学期期末コミュ英対策



名前

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The Road to Happiness

① Why do we measure a nation's success by its productivity, rather than what really matters

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most to people? ② This reading, adapted from statistician Nic Marks's TED Talk, makes the case

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for a new definition of progress.

③ What will the future be like? ④ How will our actions today affect future generations? ⑤ The

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answers to these questions are both fascinating and terrifying, especially as we glimpse the

future in many science fiction movies. ⑥ In one movie, *The Road*, we see a world where

everything has been destroyed and there's nothing left of our civilization. ⑦ A father and son

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are walking along the road, just trying to survive. ⑧ Everything around them is desolate. ⑨ It's

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just one example of the bleak future the cinema has imagined for us.

⑩ According to Nic Marks, this nightmarish vision of the future is one that many of **those** in

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the environmental movement have chosen to promote. ⑪ According to him, environmentalists

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have focused on the worst – case scenario, / sending out warnings about all the negative

outcomes that will emerge / if we don't make fundamental changes to our behavior.

⑫ Marks says we have focused attention on the problems, not on the solutions. ⑬ "We've used

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fear," says Marks, "... / when we're asking people to engage with our agenda around environmental

degradation and climate change." ⑭ Marks feels that this strategy is ineffective because fear

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tends to produce a **fight-or-flight** response. ⑮ When an animal is frightened, it freezes and then

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runs away. ⑮ Similarly, when people are presented with frightening scenarios of the future, they /⑮

also freeze and run away.

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What Is Progress?

⑯ Instead of focusing on this negative vision of the future, /Marks asks, why not focus instead /⑯

on how we can best improve our situation? ⑰ How can we measure improvements in our global

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society /so that we can invest our time and resources into building on those improvements?

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⑱ Marks believes that to do this, we first have to decide how we define *progress*. ⑲ He

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believes economists and statisticians have provided the dominant definition of progress, and

that this is a problem. ⑳ Their definition assumes that if economic growth and gross national

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product (GNP) go up, life is going to get better. ㉑ It assumes that our ultimate goal in life is

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to make more, earn more, and buy more.

㉒ In 1968, Robert Kennedy gave an eloquent deconstruction of the concept of gross

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national product. ㉓ He concluded his talk by stating that the gross national product “measures

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everything,/ in short, except that which makes life worthwhile.” ㉔ Marks believes that if Kennedy

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were alive today, /he would be asking statisticians to investigate what makes life worthwhile.

New Perspectives

㉕ Marks isn't alone in his beliefs: /many social scientists are conducting research to ask people ㉕

about what they want. ㉖ One global survey, conducted by Ed Diener and Christie Scollon (2003),/

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suggests that people measure their well-being very differently than most economists. ㉗ Quite

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unsurprisingly, people all around the world say that what they want, or value most, is happiness

- for themselves, their families, their children, and their communities. ㉘ Money is important, but

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it's not nearly as important as happiness, love, or health.

②⑨ We all want to be loved, and we all want to be healthy and live a full life. ③⑩ These seem to

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be natural human aspirations. ③⑪ Why are statisticians not measuring these? ③⑫ Why are we not

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thinking of the progress of nations in these terms, instead of just how much stuff we have?

③⑬ These are the important questions that Nic Marks believes will help us reach a better definition

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of progress.